

Message Text

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TO USLO PEKING

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009676

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL CH

SUBJECT: CHINESE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION

REF: HONG KONG 0535

1. DEPARTMENT'S LIMITED CONTACTS WITH ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM AND MEA OFFICIALS SUGGEST THAT CANADIANS MAY REGARD CURRENT NEGOTIATING IMPASSE ON HOST ARTISTIC CONTROL ISSUE BASICALLY AS TECHNICAL PROBLEM BROUGHT ABOUT BY UK'S FAILURE TO CONSULT ON CHOICE OF TITLE FOR LONDON SHOW AND RELATIVELY MINOR ERRORS IN PERIODIZATION AND SCHOLARSHIP IN EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL SURROUNDING UK EXHIBITION. WE, ON OTHER HAND, ARE CONCERNED THAT NEW PRC NEGOTIATING POSITION MAY BE RELATED TO PRESSURES CREATED BY INCREASING INVOLVEMENT OF CULTURAL SPHERE IN CURRENT POLITICAL STRUGGLE (REFTEL) AND WHICH COULD PRESENT MORE SERIOUS THREAT TO FUTURE OF EXHIBITION. IF FEASIBLE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE USLO'S COMMENTS ON CURRENT CANADIAN CHARACTERI-
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ZATION OF MOTIVES BEHIND CHINESE POSITION. IN PARTICULAR,

DO CANADIANS ANTICIPATE THAT ACQUIESCENCE IN PRC DRAFT PARAGRAPH WOULD RESULT ONLY IN MINOR DEPARTURES FROM LONDON'S MODE OF PRESENTATION, SUCH AS IN TITLE AND CHRONOLOGICAL ARRANGEMENT, OR MIGHT CHINESE MAKE SUBSTANTIAL ALTERATIONS TO INCREASE PROPAGANDA IMPACT OF SHOW?

2. WE ALSO FACE SEPARATE PROBLEM WITH TEXT OF ARTICLE SIX AS SET DOWN IN PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENTS. USG HAS NO POWER TO UNDERTAKE TO INDEMNIFY PRC IN EVENT OF LOSS OR DAMAGE. IN ABSENCE OF SPECIAL LEGISLATION, WE WILL HAVE TO RELY ON PRIVATE INSURANCE. WE SUSPECT CANADIANS MAY BE IN SIMILAR POSITION AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY DETAILS YOU MAY HAVE ON ARTICLE SIX NEGOTIATIONS. RUSH

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